Reorganizing Defence Structure

410. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise the conventional structure of the defence services in India keeping in the technological changes, mainly in electronics;

(b) whether Government propose to re-structure our defence equipments in view of lessons learnt from the gulf-war; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to remove any apprehension in the minds of our friendly neighbouring countries from our increasing defence preparations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Restructuring of the Defence Services in view of the technological changes and other developments, like the Gulf War, is an on-going process, and is kept under constant review.

(c) Our friendly neighbouring countries have been assured, from time to time, that India is committed to peace and stability in the region and our defence preparedness is meant to safeguard our own territorial integrity.

Disposal of Surplus Defence Lands

411. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of State of Defence has recently made a statement regarding disposal of surplus defence land;

(b) if so, the details of the surplus land available; and

(c) the details of the scheme for disposal, of such land?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The then Rajya Raksha Mantri, in his reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 237, had stated on 12.3.1992 that the Government have no plan to dis-invest 10% Defence land holdings in Cantonments. However, the Government were examining the possibility of generating additional resources by disposing of lands which may be surplus to Defence requirements.

In order to meet the shortfall in resources needed for modernisation and for capital works in the Armed Forces, an exercise has been undertaken to identify Defence lands rendered permanently surplus to Defence requirements. So far 189 camping grounds, 28 abandoned airfields and 791.372 acres of isolated pockets of land in Delhi have been earmarked for disposal.

There has been a continuing policy that lands rendered permanently surplus to Defence requirements will be disposed of by sale on realisation of market value to various agencies in the following order of preference:—

(1) Other Ministeries of Central Government
(2) State Governments
(3) Local Bodies
(4) Educational and Charitable Institutions
(5) Ex-Servicemen

In case non of the above groups respond to the offer, the surplus Defence lands are to be put to sale, by public auction.

Leasing of Idle Defence Units to Private Sector

412. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently allowed the Public Sector Undertakings producing Defence items and the Ordnance factories of the Defence Ministry to lease their idle units to the private sector; and